

SB 371 -- MISSOURI HIGHER EDUCATION LOAN AUTHORITY

SPONSOR: Foster (Cunningham, 86)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Education by a vote of 21 to 0.

This bill permits the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority to issue loans to high school juniors and seniors for tuition for courses that can be counted for postsecondary course credit. Loans cannot go for sectarian instruction.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that having the ability to take out a loan for dual enrollment or advanced placement classes would be very helpful to parents of high school students. Starting college with a semester or more of college credit may help improve completion rates for those students.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Foster; John Wild, Director of Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority; Citizens for Policy Reform, LLC; and Missouri National Education Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Becky DeNeve, Senior Legislative Analyst